

IBM**EXHIBIT A**

IBM Confidential Invention

closure AT898-0304

#GP090## COMBINING BIMODAL 1 GSHARE BRANCH PREDICTION MECHANISM

Page 1

P29505

Title of Invention (Short & Descriptive) #GP090## COMBINING BIMODAL & GSHARE BRANCH PREDICTION MECHANISM					
Disclosure No. AT898-0304	Functional Manager C. J. ANDERSON	Receiving Date		Receiving Time	
Patent Attorney ANTHONY V.S. ENGLAND	Evaluator NONE	Evaluation Area 25			
Inventor SINHAROY, BALARAM	Emp. Serial 233483	Div./Dept. 7T/XRVA	Bldg. or Zip AEX	Location FISHKILL	Tel. Number 532-1367
Area Code 13	Electronic Address BALARAM at KGNVMC	Manager's Name MICHAEL NEALON		Manager's Electronic Address NEALON at FSHVM1	

GP090 (3)

Combining Bimodal and Gshare branch prediction mechanism

Balaram Sinharoy
GP Designer/IBM Corporation

GP uses a combining branch prediction mechanism, which combines gshare branch prediction mechanism with bimodal branch prediction mechanism. This approach is different from the approach used by DEC. DEC also uses a combining branch prediction mechanism, but they combine "local pattern" branch prediction mechanism with gshare branch prediction mechanism. In addition to the two BHTs for the bimodal and gshare prediction mechanism, we use a selector table to select between Bimodal and Gshare predictions. The selector table keeps track which of the two prediction algorithms is working better for a given branch. Our approach uses a total of three tables, where each entry is a 1-bit counter.

Advantages

=====

1. Instead of four tables, this approach uses three identical tables.
2. Unlike DEC 21264, this approach has the advantage that it does not require serialized accesses to two separate arrays, before prediction for a branch can be generated.

66K 6565

544